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1. A method of extracting two-dimensional image shapes from a two dimensional array of pixel data, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting intensity vs. pixel information in at least one direction in the vicinity of an edge of the image shape;

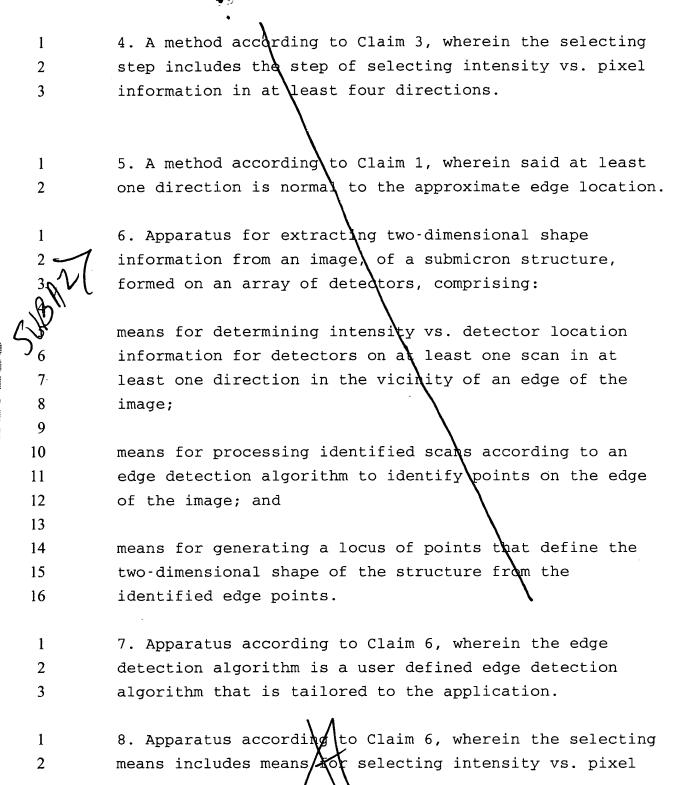
recognizing scans with sufficient contrast as containing edge information:

subjecting acceptable scans to an edge detection algorithm;

detecting the edge location; and

generating a locus of points that define the twodimensional shape of the image from the detected edge values.

- 2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the edge detection algorithm is a user defined edge detection algorithm that is tailored to the application.
- 3. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the selecting step includes the tem of selecting intensity vs. pixel information in a parality of directions in the vicinity of an edge of the image shape.



3	information a plurality of directions in the vicinity
4	of an edge of the image shape.
1	9. Apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the plurality
•	
2	of directions includes at least four directions.
1	10. Apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said at least
2	one direction is normal to an approximate edge location.
1	11. A program storage device readable by machine,
2	tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable
3	by the machine to perform method steps for extracting
4 1	two-dimensional image shapes from image data on a pixel
5	array, the method steps comprising:
6 6	
(2)K)	selecting intensity vs. pixel information in at least one
8	direction in the vicinity of an edge of the image shape;
9	
10	recognizing scans with sufficient contrast as containing
11	edge information;
12	
13	subjecting acceptable scans to an edge detection
14	algorithm;
15	
16	detecting the edge location; and
17	
18	generating a locus of points that define the two-
19	dimensional shape of the image from the detected edge
20	values.
	<b>/</b>
1	12. A program storage device according to Claim 11,
2 .	wherein the edge detection algorithm is a user defined
	BU999-152 -11-



edge detection algorithm that is tailored to the application.

13: A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the selecting step includes the step of selecting intensity vs. pixel information in a plurality of directions in the vicinity of an edge of the image shape.

14. A program storage device according to Claim 13, wherein the selecting step includes the step of selecting intensity vs. pixel information in at least four directions.

15. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein one of the directions is normal to an approximate edge location.

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